
 * IF THE WOMEN VOTED ALONE *
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* Jane Addams Writes of a Hypathetical Society Where the Men *
 * Were Asking for the Ballot and She Gives the Argu- *
 * ments the Women Could Very Properly Use Against It. *

By Jane Addams.
 Famous Head of Hull House and
 Leader in Suffrage Movement.

I ask you to consider a society
 —a hypothetical society—where
 the women were the voters and
 the men the disenfranchised. We



Jane Addams.

will suppose that the men were
 asking for the right of the ballot
 and using every argument at their
 command to obtain the consent
 of the women. What might the
 women say to their masculine pe-
 titioners?

First, could they not say:

"Our most valid objection to
 extending the franchise to you is
 that you are so fond of fighting
 and you always have been ever

since you were little boys. You
 would be likely to forget that the
 real object of the state is to nur-
 ture and protect life and, out of
 sheer vainglory, you would be
 voting away huge sums for bat-
 tleships, one of which could last
 only a few years, and yet would
 cost \$10,000,000."

Secondly, could she not say to
 disenfranchised men, "We have
 carefully built up a code of fac-
 tory legislation for the protection
 of the workers. We know you
 men have always been careless in
 housekeeping affairs and if you
 were made responsible for factory
 legislation it is probable you
 would let the workers in the tex-
 tile mills contract tuberculosis
 through needlessly breathing the
 fluff, or the workers in machine
 shops inhale metal filings, both of
 which are now carried off by an
 excellent suction system which
 we women have insisted upon, but
 which is almost imposible to have
 installed in a man-made state,
 because the men think so little of
 dust and its evil effects.

"We have also heard that in
 certain states, in order to save the
 paltry price of a guard which
 would protect a dangerous ma-
 chine, men legislators allow care-
 less boys and girls to lose their
 fingers and sometimes their
 hands, thereby crippling their en-